BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT/Simple Majority to Raise Taxes

SUBJECT: A Resolution Proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States . . . H.J. Res. 1. Hatch motion to table the Byrd amendment No. 253.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 63-37

SYNOPSIS: Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 62-63, 65-94, and 96-98.

As passed by the House, H.J. Res. 1, a resolution proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, is virtually identical to the balanced budget constitutional amendment that was considered last year by the Senate (see 103d Congress, second session, vote Nos. 47-48). The resolution: will require a three-fifths majority vote of both Houses of Congress to deficit spend or to increase the public debt limit; will require the President's annual proposed budget submission to be in balance; and will require a majority of the whole number of each House to approve any bill to increase revenue. Congress will be allowed to waive these requirements for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in effect. Congress will enforce and implement this amendment by appropriate legislation. The amendment will take effect in fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year beginning after its ratification, whichever is later. The States will have 7 years to ratify the amendment.

The Byrd amendment would strike section 4. (Section 4 provides that "No bill to increase revenue shall become law unless approved by a majority of the whole number of each House by a rollcall vote.")

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Senator Hatch moved to table the Byrd amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

NOTE: The debate on vote Nos. 92, 93, and 95 was en bloc.

For debate, see vote No. 92.

(See other side)

YEAS (63)			NAYS (37)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans Democrats (53 or 100%) (10 or 21%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (37 or 79%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)	
							Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield Helms